

LHMP ANNEX

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

Introduction

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is an autonomous Special District as defined under the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, Health and Safety Code, Section 13800, of the State of California.

The District employs 168 personnel, in addition to approximately 43 volunteers. The District maintains ten Fire Stations and one Administrative Office Building, all strategically located within the District. Of the ten Stations, nine Stations house paid firefighters and volunteers staff several of the stations. This allows for staffing of thirteen engine companies and four volunteer companies, including three truck companies, five transport Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances and other specialized vehicles for the cross-staffing of apparatus based upon the type of call. In addition, the District operates its own Communications Center, located at Station 31 and staffed with two dispatchers, one supervising dispatcher and a mobile command post supported by 11 volunteers. All other Administrative personnel reside at the Administrative Office.

The District's service area encompasses approximately 155 square miles, covering the communities of Alamo, Blackhawk, the Town of Danville, Diablo, the City of San Ramon, the southern boundary of Morgan Territory and the Tassajara Valley all located in Contra Costa County.

Within the boundaries of the District are wildland areas, single and multi-family residential units, hotels, a hospital, numerous convalescent/assisted living facilities, equestrian areas, hiking trails, rock climbing areas and a facility housing a low-level nuclear reactor. With such diversity, it is mandatory the District be equipped with proper apparatus and appropriately staffed to handle all emergencies.

The total population serviced by the District exceeds 140,794. On business days, the figure grows by another 23,000 to include the personnel employed in the Bishop Ranch Business Park, a 585-acre development located in San Ramon. Since its inception in 1984, the Bishop Ranch Business Park has evolved into a nationally recognized premier business center, comprised of over 330 companies, from established Global 500 companies to innovative start-ups. Two of the larger employers in Bishop Ranch are Chevron Texaco and SBC.

The District must be prepared for emergencies and potential exposure to hazardous materials in the area of the Interstate 680 corridor that passes through the San Ramon Valley. Trucks and other vehicles carry virtually every known hazardous material to points within the Greater Bay Area.

The District's philosophy with regard to fire, medical or hazardous material emergencies has been one of a strong, rapid deployment of appropriate resources to mitigate any

emergency as recognized by a Class 2 Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating. The District's goal is an overall response time of 5 minutes. Under normal conditions, seventeen emergency response companies can be deployed for an emergency within the boundaries of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

The District's Training Division is also very active coordinating periodic training with many local agencies, such as the Town of Danville, the City of San Ramon, Mt. Diablo State Park and the California Department of Forestry. Some of the classes offered to these agencies and the public are in Hazardous Materials, Emergency Operations Center Training, CPR certification and re-certification and First Aid. The District serves as the primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC) location for the Town of Danville and the alternate center for the City of San Ramon.

The SRVFPD provides full service fire prevention functions. The Fire Prevention Division works closely with various community agencies, utility providers and builders to facilitate all construction activities in the District. The Division performs inspections for code compliance, weed abatement, fire suppression systems, fire warning, smoke control and water systems to ensure those facilities meet fire safety codes.

The District has enacted a comprehensive fire prevention ordinance that includes sprinkler requirements for most commercial buildings and residential buildings exceeding 5,000 square feet. This approach has led to a higher degree of fire and life safety and reduced insurance costs.

The District's public education programs, providing safety and disaster preparedness information, extend beyond the traditional school safety programs by reaching out to the elderly and business communities. The traditional fire safety school program has been expanded to provide a 50-minute in-classroom teaching activity for all classes 1st through 5th grade. The interactive and informative presentations reach more than 6,000 students annually.

The District works closely with community organizations, such as service clubs and local Chambers of Commerce, for distribution and installation of smoke detectors for newborn babies and the elderly and neighborhood disaster preparedness activities for the entire area. Supplemental disaster preparedness training is available to schools and neighborhood groups who have completed steps for their own personal preparedness (i.e. reduction of non-structural hazards, food and water supplies for 72 hours.) The program's intent is to enable citizens to survive and take care of themselves during and after a disaster when emergency resources are overwhelmed. The District offers supportive training at no charge (for groups of 20 or more) in three areas: Fire Prevention/Suppression Techniques, Survival First Aid/Triage and Damage Control/Light Search and Rescue.

The Planning Process

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District has a history of being pro active in the mitigation of possible hazards within its scope of responsibility. The District's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation.

Many of the activities conducted by the District were fed into the planning process for the multi-jurisdictional plan. In addition, the District has provided written and oral comments on the plan. Finally, the District provided information on facilities that are viewed as "critical" to ABAG.

Key District Staff met on three occasions to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the Fire District. Staff involved in these meetings included the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Operations Chief, and Rescue Division Coordinator as facilitator. At the first meeting a general time line was established along with key tasks needed for the completion of the plan. The meeting also involved a discussion regarding District facilities and the information needed by ABAG.

The second meeting involved a status report on the progress of the plan. The third meeting revolved around the prioritization of mitigation strategies.

Once the draft plan /annex were complete, two additional meetings were attended to prepare the document for Board review. The first was to review the plan annex. The second meeting took place after the public comment opportunity, and addressed identified issues / comments.

The resolution adopting the plan and strategies was on the agenda of the July Board of Directors meeting.

Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought). These hazards also impact the community served by the Fire District, as well as district facilities, except for tsunamis. Tsunamis are not an issue because the District does not border the Pacific Ocean or San Francisco Bay.

Information on disasters declared in Contra Costa County is at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

To view detailed maps of general hazards see ABAG's website. This website allows the user to search using the boundaries of the District, rather than just specific cities.

The Fire District examined the hazard exposure of 21 critical facilities based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit.html>. Of the critical facilities owned by the District,

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – Only one facility (the fire station on Morgan Territory Road) is in the Alquist-Priolo Fault Study Zone for the Greenville fault.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – Fifteen District-owned critical facilities are in the highest two categories of shaking potential.
- ◆ Earthquake-induced landslides – The California Geological Survey has not completed mapping of this hazard in the District. The hazard is assumed to be similar to that for storm-induced landslides, discussed below.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction – Eleven District-owned critical facilities are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility.
- ◆ Tsunamis – As stated above, the District is not impacted by tsunamis.
- ◆ Flooding – Two district facilities are in either the 100-year flood plain (an office and fire station on Fircrest Lane in San Ramon), while two additional facilities are or in other flood-prone areas (an old school on Finley Road and a fire station on Diablo Road).
- ◆ Landslides – No District-owned facilities are in areas of existing landslides.
- ◆ Wildfires – Eight District-owned critical facilities are in areas of high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat, while twelve District-owned critical facilities are in mapped wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ Dam Inundation – No District-owned facilities are in an area subject to dam inundation.
- ◆ Drought – Drought will not affect district buildings directly.

The District plans to work with ABAG to develop specific information about the kind and level of damage to buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities which might result from any of the hazards previously noted. The ABAG Annex states that ABAG will be doing this work in 2005 through early 2006.

As these impacts are not fully developed, the District has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts given hazard exposure. The conclusion is that earthquakes (particularly shaking and liquefaction) and wildfire pose more of a significant risk for potential loss than the other hazards.

Mitigation Activities and Priorities

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, Fire District staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed at a meeting of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Operations Chief, and Rescue Division Coordinator on February 22, 2005. At the meeting, all of the mitigation strategies were reviewed.

The tentative decision on priority was made based on a variety of criteria, not simply on an economic cost-benefit analysis. These criteria include being technically and

administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

In 2003, the District performed a comprehensive Strategic Planning process, involving representatives from every Division within the District. The resulting document identified strengths and weaknesses and a process by which to mitigate any identified weakness. In addition to this, the District is developing a multi-year business plan to identify the specific objectives that will be met over the next several budget cycles. Both of these plans include planning elements such as measurable objectives, task assignments and specific service level decisions. When plan elements are formalized they are adopted through standard operating procedures, policies, program documents, resolution or ordinance.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof Fire District, but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, many of the strategies are existing Fire District programs.

These draft priorities were submitted to the Fire Chief for review. The draft priorities were then provided to the Board of Directors on May, 2005. The public was provided with an opportunity to comment on the DRAFT priorities.

The staff members involved are pleased to find a larger than expected numbers of strategies are currently in progress. The plan was initially thought to more applicable to Cities or Counties who have a wide range of responsibilities.

The Plan Maintenance and Update Process

The Fire Chief designee will ensure that *monitoring* of this Annex will occur. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. However, the major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be a discussion item on the agenda of the meeting of District management heads at least once a year in April. At that meeting, the department heads will focus on *evaluating* the Annex in light of technological and political changes during the past year or other significant events. This group will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

The Fire District is committed to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The Fire Chief's designee will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the Fire District again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the County's Office of Emergency Services. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The *public* will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated, and as appropriate during the monitoring and evaluation process. Prior to adoption of updates, the District will provide the opportunity for the public to comment on the updates. A public notice will be posted prior to the meeting to announce the comment period and meeting logistics.